

SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY



January 19, 2011

Ms. Terry Macaulay
Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814



The Solano County Water Agency has two main functions: water supply and flood control. Also, we are preparing the Solano Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan. We provide the following comments on the NOP as to how the Delta Plan may impact these functions.

The water supply potentially impacted by the Delta Plan is the North Bay Aqueduct (NBA) of the State Water Project. The Barker Slough intake of the NBA is located in the Cache Slough Restoration Area for tidal marsh habitat projects. The NBA provides a vital drinking water source to cities in Solano and Napa counties.

The EIR should analyze the water quality impacts of implementation of new tidal marsh habitat projects in the Cache Slough/Yolo Bypass area on the drinking water quality of the NBA, especially a potential increase in organic carbon.

In terms of flood control, much of Solano County (and parts of Yolo and Colusa counties) drains into the Cache Slough area. Point and non-point runoff and discharges meet current water quality standards. The proponents of new tidal marsh habitat areas will need to acknowledge that this is an existing condition when creating new tidal habitat projects.

The EIR should analyze if new tidal marsh habitat projects can provide the expected ecological benefits with the current water quality situation in the Cache Slough/Yolo Bypass area. If source water quality improvement measures are recommended the EIR should analyze the economic and environmental impacts of such measures.

All Delta Plan projects or programs should be evaluated to determine if they would adversely impact flood protection capacity. If so mitigation measures should be identified.

P.O. Box 349 • 6040 Vaca Station Road, Building 84
Elmira, California 95625-0349
Phone (707) 451-6090 • FAX (707) 451-6099
www.scwa2.com



The Solano Habitat Conservation Plan is under preparation and a public draft is expected in 2011. The HCP is not expected to be completed by the time the Delta Plan must be adopted. However the Solano HCP contains conservation measures developed in coordination with local, state and federal agencies that are expected to become approved in 2012.

The EIR should recognize the conservation measures in the draft Solano HCP and determine if there are any conflicts with the Delta Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Okita', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Okita
General Manager